



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

AUG 29 2019

810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington DC 20420
www.va.gov

Via Email: 68679-55362698@requests.muckrock.com

Mr. Jasper Craven
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 68679
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02114-2516

Dear Mr. Craven:

This letter is concerning your February 8, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in which you are requesting:

"Any and all requests for travel made from Jeff Miller, then the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, between 2009 and 2014."

The FOIA Service acknowledged receipt of your request on March 8, 2019, assigned it FOIA tracking number **19-04465-F**, and also requested clarification.

We stated:

"Before the VA can process your request, we need additional clarification. Are you asking for Jeff Miller's travel requests for himself as the Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee, or, are you requesting travel requests that Mr. Miller may have made to the VA for VA Officials to travel? Please provide any specific VA office(s) in which you are interested in having a search conducted (i.e. Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

According to our regulations, a request for records "must contain a reasonable description of the records desired so that it may be located with relative ease." Per 38 CFR, 1.554(d), the requester's description of the records sought needs to describe such records in enough detail to allow VA FOIA Officers to locate them with a "reasonable amount of effort." To the extent possible, the requester should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient and subject matter. Wide ranging requests that lack specificity or contain descriptions of very general subject matters with no description of specific records may be considered "not reasonably described."

To ensure that VA conducts a thorough and efficient records search, please provide the requested information.

Please contact us within 30 calendar days of the date of this communication or we will conclude that you are no longer interested in pursuing this request and will administratively close our files. Your request is being "tolled" until we receive your response to our request for clarification."

Mr. Jasper Craven
Page 2

You responded on April 30, 2019, stating:

"Sorry for the belated response, I'm looking for requests Miller made for himself."

We apologize for the delay of this response.

You stated that you are seeking travel records Jeff Miller made for himself as the Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee. As being a member of Congress, the VA would not maintain these records, and therefore, are providing you a no records response.

If you do not agree with this "no records" response, you have the right to appeal within 90 days of the date of this letter. You may appeal to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
General Counsel (024)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

You may also submit your appeal via facsimile to (202) 273-6388 or via email to ogcfoiaappeals@va.gov.

Please include a copy of your request and this letter with your appeal, and clearly state why you disagree with this determination. If you mail your appeal, both the front of the envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

As an alternative to submitting an appeal, you may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison, which was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Using the VA FOIA Public Liaison does not affect your right to appeal.

You may contact the VA FOIA Public Liaison at:

Department of Veterans Affairs
VA FOIA Public Liaison (005R1C)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Email: vacofoiaservice@va.gov
Telephone: (877) 750-3642
Facsimile: (202) 632-7581

In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests and agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion of the Office, may issue advisory opinions if mediation has not resolved the dispute.

Mr. Jasper Craven
Page 3

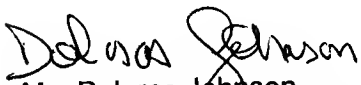
You may contact OGIS at:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448
Facsimile: (202) 741-5769
Telephone: (202) 741-5770

This concludes the FOIA Service's response to your request.

We appreciate your interest in the VA. If you have any further questions concerning this letter, do not hesitate in contacting Ms. Diane Cooke of my staff at (202) 632-7419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doloras Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doloras" being more prominent than the last name "Johnson".

Ms. Doloras Johnson
Director, VACO FOIA Service
Quality, Performance, and Risk (QPR)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)